

January 21, 2002

Elizabeth T. Beck  
16215 N. 11<sup>th</sup> Place  
Phoenix, Arizona 85022

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Microsoft antitrust lawsuits

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to expound on a number of concerns I have in regards to the recent antitrust lawsuits and settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft. First off, I think it is ridiculous that any litigation began in the first place. Microsoft is the cornerstone of our tech sector and has been an extremely powerful asset to our economy. They have created jobs, made technological breakthroughs, and contributed to educational systems.

As a consumer, I do not feel that they have infringed upon my rights at all. I use Microsoft because they deliver consistently better products. Other vendors have not been as innovative and so have not been successful. When competition has produced a better product they have been able to gain market share. Microsoft offers Microsoft-Money on their Windows for free, yet thousands of people are paying good money for Intuit's Quicken because it is a superior product. You cannot punish Microsoft for offering Explorer for free. They merely decided to make it easier for the consumer by placing Internet Explorer on Windows operating systems. The consumer still has the option of using another browser and most of the competitors' products are also available at no cost. That would be like penalizing Snickers for offering their candy for free from now on in all convenient stores. You would still be able to purchase your favorite candy, as you had intended when entering the store.

Under English definition, monopolistic tendencies are to inflate prices and deliver sub par products. Microsoft has done neither! I urge your office to take a strong stance against all opposition and attempt to give a bittersweet ending to a tragic case of American greed and jealousy.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Beck